



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

DIPHThERIA ANTITOXIN ADMINISTERED BY THE MOUTH.—The *Medical Record*, quoting from the *British Medical Journal*, says: "G. I. Cumberlege advocates this method of administration, claiming good results in his own experience, without any of the disadvantages associated with the hypodermic administration."

MENORRHAGIA IN VIRGINS.—F. Hare states, in the *British Medical Journal*, that excessive menstruation may depend upon exaggerated vesicular tone. For this reason he finds justification for the use of amyl nitrite, the inhalation of which even in single administrations of 3 minims has been sufficient to effect permanent relief from the tendency to excessive losses.

HEALTH.—The *New England Medical Monthly* says: "Take care of your health; you have no right to neglect it, and thus become a burden to yourself and perhaps to others. Let your food be simple; never eat too much; take exercise enough; be systematic in all things; if unwell, starve yourself till you are well again, and you may throw care to the winds."

COFFEE.—Dr. Robert E. Coughlin says in the *New York Medical Journal*: "The therapeutical uses of coffee are the following: It is a valuable stimulant in cases of narcotic poisoning, opium, belladonna, chloral, etc.; acts best when given as a rectal injection. In the collapse of anæsthesia and for the effects of venomous stings and bites, it is invaluable. Green coffee has been used in general nephritic colic and migraine by allowing a prepared solution to macerate all night. It has been found after an experience of twenty years that in epidemic febrile disorders in army practice, those patients did better to whom strong coffee was freely administered. Under these circumstances it is not only a heart tonic, but a powerful nerve tonic, and sustains and heightens the power of resistance of the organism to disease. Personally, the writer can testify to its efficacy in cases of shock and vomiting after

operations, or hemorrhage, in drachm doses without milk or sugar, every fifteen minutes. In this way it acts as a valuable heart stimulant, and the stomach will retain it when everything else may be rejected."

AID IN SUBJECTIVE EXAMINATION FOR GLASSES.—A German medical journal says: "Hertzell has a number of lenses attached to a rod, so that they may be passed readily before the eye of the patient and so obviate the tiresome exchange of glasses in the test frame."

A FOREIGN BODY UNDER THE NAIL.—The *New York Medical Journal* has the following: "Painful and dangerous felons sometimes develop from the presence under the fingernail of a splinter or a fragment of needle, which it is not always possible to seize with a forceps. Laval recalls an old method of extracting such foreign bodies. The nail is first scraped with a piece of broken glass till the patient complains of tenderness, then a ten to twenty per cent. solution of potassium hydroxide is painted on a narrow strip of the nail over the offending object until complete softening is manifest to the touch. The nail should then be washed with plain water when it will be found a simple matter to remove the *corpus delicti*."

SOME ADVANCES IN OBSTETRICS DURING THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.—At a meeting of the American Gynæcological Society, Dr. A. Laphorn Smith, of Montreal, stated that if one were to ask any practitioner with a large obstetric practice what had been the greatest advance in that department of medicine during the last twenty-five years he would reply without hesitation, sepsis and the abolition of puerperal fever. All doctors and all nurses felt that it was now a personal disgrace to have a case of puerperal sepsis on their hands, and yet he was convinced that in many of the cases he had been called to they had been absolutely blameless. He also mentioned as one of the "advances," the trained nurse in obstetrics.

MORTALITY OF HAND-FED INFANTS.—The *Medical Record* says: "Mr. Frederick S. Crum, statistician for the Prudential Life Insurance Company, furnishes statistics showing the comparative death-rates among hand-reared and breast-fed infants. He says that in Hull, England, it was found that in their third quarter of the year, during a five-year period, there were 991 deaths from diarrhoea of infants fed on a mixed diet, as against only 190 deaths from the same cause of infants entirely breast fed. The Berlin statistics for a number of years show the definite relation of hot weather and method of feeding to infant mortality.

Invariably the death-rates of both classes of infants go up above normal during the hot weather, but the increase in mortality among the artificially fed is greater—out of all due proportion—than the increase in the mortality of the breast fed.”

MOBILIZATION OF ANKYLOSED JOINTS.—The *Maryland Medical Journal* says: “Ankylosed elbows and knees have been the principal joints selected for mobilization, and have yielded excellent results. The technic consists in cutting away the binding tissue and shaping the several constituents of the joints as near as possible to their original contour. Then a piece of fat, muscle or fascia, or even foreign material, is inserted between the surfaces thus bared. The results have been remarkable, many useless joints having been restored to usefulness.”

SERUM DIAGNOSIS OF PREGNANCY.—The *Interstate Medical Journal*, quoting from a German contemporary, states that “If a watery suspension of guinea-pig placenta be injected into a non-pregnant guinea-pig, the latter remains unaffected. A second injection, at a proper interval, however, promptly causes the animal’s death, showing that it had been sensitized by the first injection. Pregnant guinea-pigs behave quite otherwise. In them a single injection usually proves fatal, always in early pregnancy, less and less so the more advanced the pregnancy. Investigation showed that, from the very beginning of pregnancy, these animals had become sensitized to placental proteid but that, as pregnancy advanced, antibodies were formed which in advanced pregnancy sufficed to protect the animal.

“These observations suggest the possibility of a serum diagnosis of pregnancy. By means of the so-called epiphanin reaction it is possible to determine whether a specimen of serum comes from a sensitized human being or animal as the case may be. In brief, the method consists in mixing some of the serum to be examined with an emulsion of the tissue in question (in this case human placenta), and determining the change, if any, in the surface tension. The test can only be carried out by a specially trained man, but that is equally true of the Wassermann reaction. The time may come when the serum diagnosis of pregnancy will be as simple a matter as the serum diagnosis of syphilis. The test will be especially valuable as it will be most strongly marked in the earliest weeks of pregnancy, when all other signs fail us.”

SALVARSAN MILK.—It has been demonstrated that syphilitic children, nursed by their mothers who are being treated with salvarsan, improve markedly, as they receive medication through the mother’s milk. A

German medical journal suggests that salvarsan may be injected intravenously into goats and cows and the milk fed to syphilitic children. The technic is so simple as to be at anyone's command. A milch-goat is given 0.6 gm. salvarsan intravenously (a cow correspondingly more), and the milk is fed to the syphilitic child. If further experience demonstrates the value of the method, such milk, fresh or concentrated, will doubtless become an article of commerce.

THE LIMELIGHT ON PNEUMONIA.—In an extremely interesting article in the *Medical Record*, Dr. James R. Mitchell takes issue with the accepted treatment of pneumonia. He advocates rest, support and calcium. He disapproves of cold baths and cold air in treating the disease. Exposure to cold and dampness brought it on, lowering the patient's vitality so that he became an easy victim to the treacherous pneumococci. The curative treatment is a dish of milk and lime water, equal parts, and ten grains of calcium chloride every three hours. He says in all diseases where pneumonia is a threatened complication calcium in diet and medicine will avoid it. The pneumococcus extracts lime from the medium in which it grows—the body—and this want must be supplied or the result is fatal. Of thirty-three patients he lost but two, when treatment was begun too late.

DOUCHING AND FANNING VERSUS COLD SPONGING IN PNEUMONIA.—Dr. R. L. Hammond says in the *Maryland Medical Journal*: "For some time past I have been employing cold douches to the extremities with fanning rather than cold sponging alone. In my hands this method has given much better results in the reduction of the temperature and in quieting the nervous symptoms of my patients, and therefore I thought calling the method to the attention of the medical profession worth while. By this method the patient is less disturbed than by the frequent mopping of the parts with cold water, and the reduction in the temperature is more rapid and satisfactory. The extremities are soaked with cold water and then fanned, thus inducing a more rapid evaporation of the water, and consequently a quicker radiation of the heat from the body. I have been employing this method for some time now, and find the patient complains less and is less shocked, the temperature is more easily kept within bounds, and the nervousness is allayed more readily."